

Marion Co. ATC Carpentry Students Build Police K-9 Obstacle Course

Course will aid in valuable training exercises

All too often negative events involving young people and the police are noticed in today's society. However, students at the Marion Co. ATC have a positive story to tell by way of a community project which brought the construction technology (CT) class and the Lebanon Police Department together.

The ATC enjoys an ongoing relationship with the department and Officer Byron Richardson, who has been bringing his "partner" Rex, a drug sniffing police dog, to the school as part of a drug awareness training for the staff.

During one of those visits, ATC Principal Howard Carey and CT Instructor Danny Taylor learned of Officer Richardson's desire to secure funding and a building source for a canine training obstacle course. Each year Richardson and Rex, along with other law enforcement officers across the country, have to be certified on a United States Police Canine Association training course.

Mr. Taylor and Mr. Carey talked it over and agreed that building a canine training obstacle course was a reasonable and worthwhile project for the CT class.

Mr. Carey contacted Lebanon Police Chief Shelton Young about approaching the Lebanon Rotary and Lions clubs to secure the \$1000 needed for treated lumber for the project.

"We received building instructions from Officer Richardson and our class performed the actual construction of six different structures that make up the course," said Mr. Taylor.

The different course structures represent barriers a dog may encounter in actual situations. Students constructed various sizes of hurdles, an A-frame structure, 4 foot square boxes and a cat walk to simulate real life barriers.

"This agility course will be a great benefit in that it reflects real life situations," said Officer Richardson. "This was a great project. Anytime we've had interactions with these students, it has been positive."

"This project not only provided a good experience for our students, but it will provide years of service to this community and others as well," said Mr. Carey.

"Our class had fun participating in this project," said Mr. Taylor. "We enjoy projects that benefit our community."

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**Officer Byron
Richardson,
Lebanon Police
Department**



Officer Byron Richardson (left) with his "partner" Rex and CT Instructor Danny Taylor.

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